

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Mitsuhiko SATO, *et al.*

Serial No.: 10/676,804

Filed: 01 October 2003

Title: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND
CONTROL METHOD THEREFOR

Group Art Unit: 2861

Examiner: H. Pham

Attorney Docket No.: CANO:091

Confirmation No.: 3089

VIA EFS-WEB
06 October 2006

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Sir:

Per Rules 56, 97, and 98, applicants submit this IDS, listing the enclosed references in the attached Form PTO/SB/08a. Applicants respectfully request that this IDS be expressly considered and made of record.

RELEVANCE

USP 6,029,023 discloses an image forming apparatus where when the color information indicates that the next document is color, the next mode is judged to be the color mode, and when the color information indicates that the next document is monochrome, the next mode is judged to be the monochrome mode (column 22, lines 15 to 19). In a life priority mode, a CPU 501B of the image forming apparatus judges whether the next mode is the color or monochrome mode by referring to the color information in the management table (column 22, lines 11 to 14). In the productivity priority mode, the mode switching between the color mode and the monochrome mode may be performed according to various conditions (column 22, lines 25 to 28). If the current mode is the color mode, the next mode is also set in the color mode. Meanwhile, if the current mode is the monochrome mode and the color information indicates

that the next document is color, the next mode is set in the color mode. If, on the other hand, the current mode is the monochrome mode and the color information indicates that the next document is monochrome, the next mode is set in the monochrome mode (column 22, lines 31 to 39).

JP2001-005344 discloses an image forming apparatus having an operation mode control section 105 that controls the pressure-welding or the alienation between an imprint belt 41 and photo conductor drums 51M-51Y ([0042]). When the color mode (one of two operation modes ([0047])) is performed, the pressure-welding of all the photo conductor drums 51M-51K to transfer paper conveyance sides of the imprint belt 41 is carried out. On the other hand, in case the monochrome mode (the other of the two operation modes ([0047])) is performed, the photo conductor drums 51M-51Y that do not participate in the image formation of the monochrome mode and the conveyance side of the imprint belt 41 can be made to alienate ([0029]). Specifically, by performing an image stabilization control (development bias decision, the maximum concentration adjustment, etc.), which can be performed also in the monochrome mode in the condition of having been set in the monochrome mode, it becomes possible to omit control of the development bias decision about each color of M, C, and Y etc., when switched to the color mode, and which can make initiation of the image formation after an operation mode switch quickly ([0062]).

Respectfully submitted,

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06 OCTOBER 2006

DATE

/Lyle Kimms/

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REG. NO. 34,079 (RULE 34, WHERE APPLICABLE)

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